

East Central Community College  
P. O. Box 129  
Decatur, Mississippi 39327

You are cordially invited to a reception  
honoring

Dr. Phil A. Sutphin, President

East Central Community College

Upon his retirement and building naming

Sunday, May 6, 2012

Associate Degree Nursing/Child

Development Technology Building

Decatur, Mississippi

Two o'clock to four o'clock in the afternoon

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Presentation at three o'clock



May 8, 2012

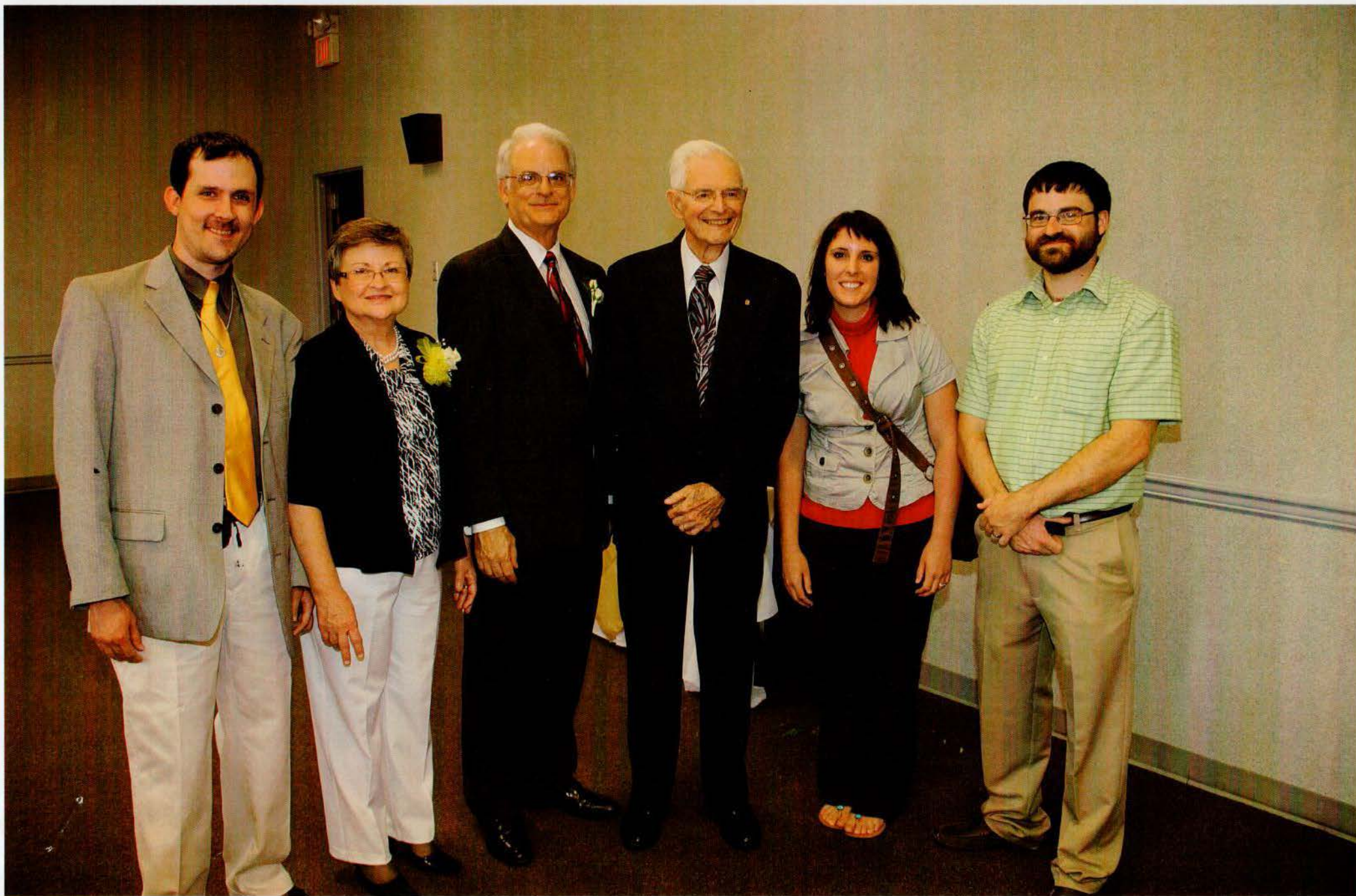
Outline:

Family Members Join Dr. Sutphin at Retirement Reception

East Central Community College President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin (third from left) is shown with family members at his retirement reception and building dedication held Sunday, May 6 on the Decatur campus. From left are his son Brad Sutphin, ~~and~~ wife Peggy Sutphin of Decatur; father, Dr. Felix Sutphin of Meridian; and daughter-in-law Mandie and son Brent Sutphin of Hattiesburg. The special program was held at the Associate Degree Nursing/Child Care Technology Building, which was officially named in his honor at the ceremony as declared by ECCC Board of Trustees Chairman Dr. Jimmy Hollingsworth of Lake. The ECCC Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve the re-naming of the facility at the April 2012 meeting, "in recognition of Dr. Sutphin's years of loyal service to the College and his leadership in helping secure the nursing/childcare facility on the Decatur campus." Dr. Sutphin was also presented a travel gift certificate from Vice President of Instruction Dr. Lavinia Sparkman on behalf of the ECCC family. In addition, he was presented legislative resolutions of commendation from State Senator Giles Ward of Louisville and State Representatives Randy Rushing of Decatur, Scott Bounds of Philadelphia and Tom Miles of Forest. When he officially retires on June 30, 2012, Dr. Sutphin will have completed 12 years service as ECCC's seventh president. He joined the ECCC staff in 1988 as Dean of Students and later served as Dean of Instruction. In all, Dr. Sutphin has provided 42 years of service in the field of education. He will be succeeded by Dr. Billy Stewart, currently serving as Vice President for Administration and Finance at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in Perkinston. (EC Photo)



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# Citizen of the Year unveiled

This week's Newton Record Progress Edition is chock-full of updates and information pertaining to the progress of Newton County over the past year. Inside, readers can find updates on local and county schools, municipalities, organizations, businesses, industries and The Newton Record's selection of Citizen of the Year.

"The paper has always done progress editions," Publisher Robbie Robertson said. "I wanted to do a little bit better and a little bit different than what we've done in the past."

The progress format changed in 2004 when Robertson decided to feature a "Citizen of the Year" as one of the many progress features.

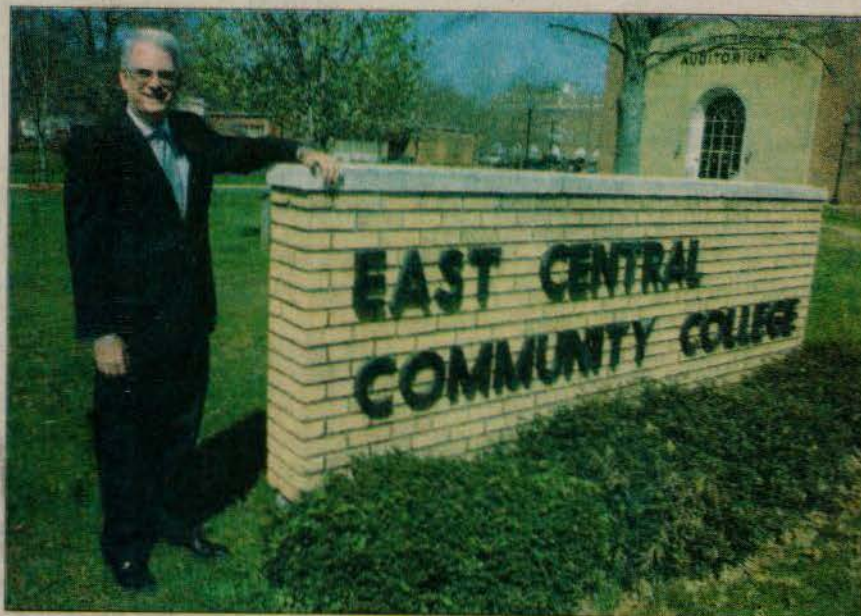
"I wanted to do a citizen of the year to spotlight the people of this county," Robertson said. "And that's what the progress edition really is. It's spotlighting the people, businesses and schools of this county."

The yearly progress edition gives readers a chance to get up-to-date on all the happenings at local industries. Pictures of employees, updates on management techniques and yearly reviews are all featured in the industry stories and ads.

Healthcare in Newton County has held headlines for the past year and a half as Newton Regional Hospital has made major breakthroughs from groundbreaking in 2004 to a hopeful grand opening in 2005. The new hospital has been a labor of love for last year's citizen of the year Tim Thomas.

Schools all over Newton County are continuing to keep students a top priority, whether they are three years old at the Newton County Academy or 30 years old as adult students at East Central Community College. Newton Municipal Schools celebrated a major victory recently as their Lady Tigers Basketball team took the State 2A Championship. Newton County Schools are celebrating their ever-expanding campus, and though they only recently finished an addition to the school, the administration will soon be adding a baseball field house to be utilized by Newton County School athletes.

## The Newton Record Progress 2005



East Central President Dr. Phil Sutphin stands in front of the college's sign earlier this week. Sutphin was named The Newton Record's Citizen of the Year for 2005.

### Citizen of the Year: Dr. Phil Sutphin

ECCC president delivers growth, commitment to the community

By Robbie Robertson

**Y**ou can find out everything you need to know about East Central Community College president Dr. Phil Sutphin by looking at his car tag: G08E2CC.

Sutphin is in his fifth year as president of the Decatur school. And during that time, Sutphin has established himself as a proven administrator and community leader. And now he can add The Newton Record's Citizen of the Year Award to his long list of accomplishments.

#### Growth

As president of East Central, Sutphin has completed one of the longest winning streaks around. The school has posted a record enrollment for the 20th straight semester. In 1986 when Dr. Eddie Smith started the college's recruitment program, enrollment was at 400. For the 20th semester this year, enrollment was at 3,700 students. Since Sutphin took over in 2000, enrollment has grown more than 300 students.

"Growth, that's just what we do," Sutphin said with a huge grin on his face. "It's expected."

Sutphin gave a majority of the credit for the school's growth to the students, who bring the school's record enrollment program.

"Joe and his staff do a great job," Sutphin said. "You have to get out to the high schools and let the students know who you are. But recently our biggest growth has been in the non-traditional students."

Sutphin also says that part of East Central's growth is part of the state's overall growth in the community col-



East Central Community College President Phil Sutphin sits at his desk and checks on the budget situation of the state Legislature.

#### Tough times

While the college has enjoyed the fruits of growth, it has also suffered from the sting of a weak economy and continued funding problems from the state Legislature. Now Sutphin spends plenty of time with other

community college presidents lobbying the Legislature and keeping an eye on his budget.

"My first year was really the last good year in terms of the budget," Sutphin said. "Since then, we've had to deal with budget cuts from the Legislature every year."

But during that time, Sutphin said the school hasn't let a single employee go but has kept a few positions open. "When you only have one Physics teacher, you can't eliminate that position, you have to offer Physics," he said. "But we have a good number of adjunct faculty and most of our

full-time professors teach overload classes."

And while other managers might be looking for areas to trim, Sutphin sees every position as valuable.

"All the way up from groundskeeping, everybody on this campus has a valuable job on this campus," Sutphin said. "Just take groundskeeping. Others might say you can cut some of those positions. But in my mind, those are some of our most valuable employees. You only get one chance to make a first impression on prospective students. And what's the first thing they see at the school, the grounds."

#### In the community

While it's tough enough to run a college, Sutphin finds time to his schedule for a variety of community services.

He's immediately past president of the Decatur Chamber of Commerce and sits on the boards of the Newton County Tourism Council and Habitat for Humanity. He also helped with the group that put together the Newton College Library and is part of Newton County's ongoing strategic planning process.

"Sometimes it's hard but you have to make priorities," Sutphin said. "Sometimes it's an 80-day and other times it's a 7-10 day."

But more importantly than the civic aspect of serving on various boards, Sutphin said it's simply just part of his job.

"This job is about promoting this college and protecting the mission of the institution," Sutphin said. "Everything you do and every decision you make as how you serve is based on that."



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Sutphin

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Newspaper Clipping  
"Dr. Phil A. Sutphin"

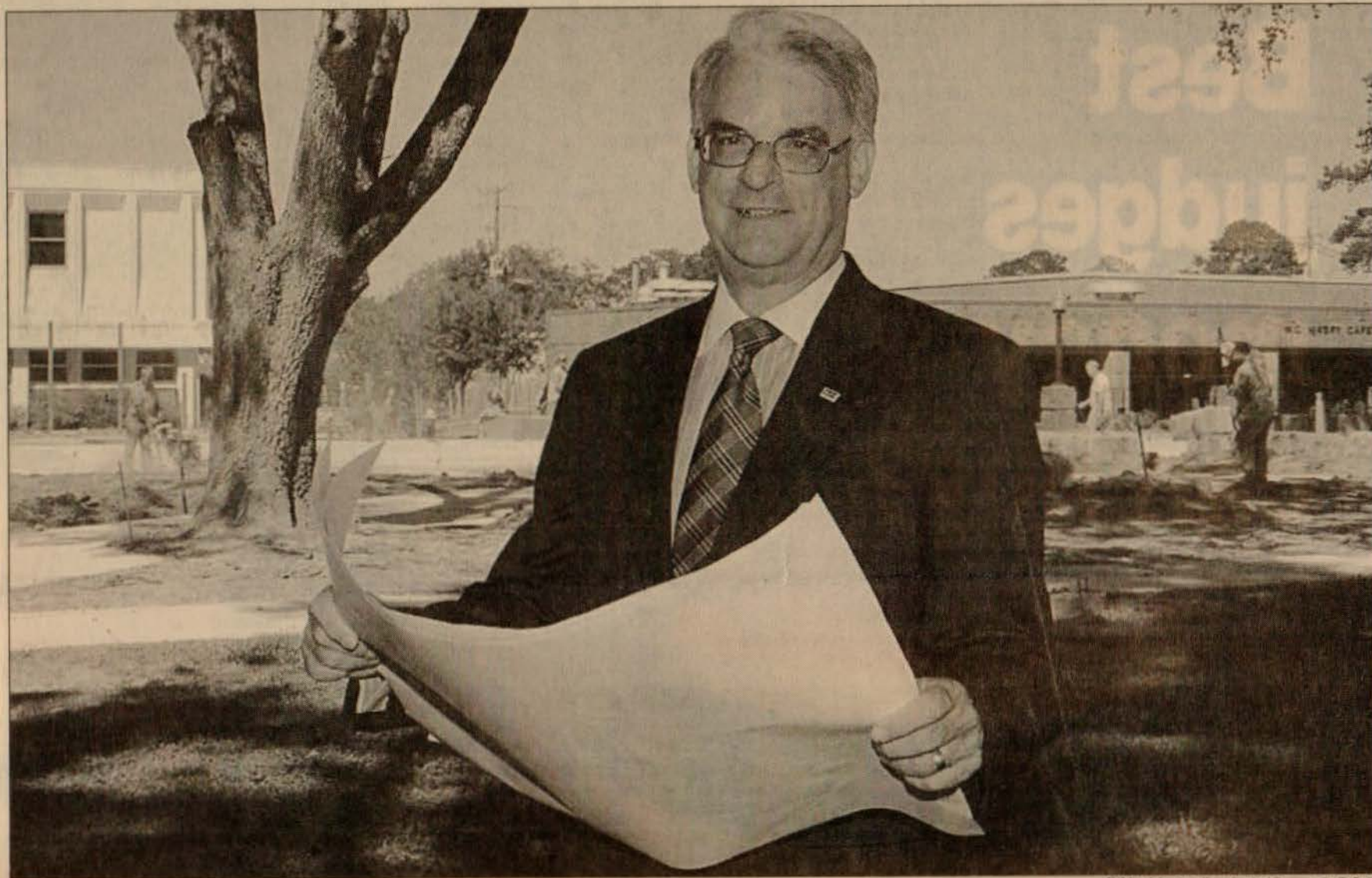
CLARION LEDGER  
Dec. 26, 2004

CLARIONLEDGER.COM

## Dr. Phil A. Sutphin

Decatur, 57, President, East Central Comm. College

*"East Central can point to many distinguished alumni in most of the families in the area. There are third and fourth generation students here and we have faculty who are teaching grandchildren of their former students."*





one begins as a student at an early age, listening to stories read by family members, then comes kindergarten, school, college, etc. But, in addition to the usual contacts one has with school, having parents who were associated with education put me in an intensive environment as far as education is concerned. So I guess my career path was sort of inherited. Also, I have always tried to do things that had a positive impact on others and what better way to help than teaching and education. Education has always been an important goal of government because an educated society is considered important to self government and democracy.

My early memories center around church activities. Mom and Dad always made sure that I was present at all activities which is expected of the preacher's kid. However, when I was in the sixth grade my dad went to Wood Junior College as its president and my memories shifted from church activities to college campus activities. In both situations, as I observed my parents' roles, I learned that compassion and hard work are essential to success.

My first full-time summer job was on the campus of Wood Junior College. I worked on the grounds crew for the most part but also got to do whatever needed doing as far as general maintenance. My first real tool was a Yazoo Big Wheel. We also had to strip

district and we were working closely with the Tribe to hold classes on the reservation and also to provide assistance on our main campus. Native Americans make up over 10.8 percent of our current fall enrollment. Our African-American enrollment is approximately 35.5 percent. One of my major concerns, however, is the difficulty we have in attracting and retaining minority faculty and staff.

Mississippi's community and junior colleges must continue to be available to area students as the best choice for academic, technical, and vocational programs. As open-entry, low-cost institutions, we must provide two solid years of post-secondary instruction. We offer hope for thousands of students who need to obtain additional education to compete for jobs in the 21st century. This is East Central's core mission and we will work to maintain that mission.

Coordination between the Mississippi Department of Education, the state Board for Community and Junior Colleges, and the state College Board will require constant attention so that the quality of life in Mississippi will be enhanced. To this end, EC will continue to look for specific programs that will enhance our area and we will look for partners who can benefit from a relationship with us to provide those programs. Beyond our core mission of instruction will be our activities in work-force training. Community colleges and East

Central serves a diverse student body. The Hispanic population in our district is growing and we see new demographics in this regard. Several years ago, we had no students of Hispanic origin and now we are enrolling a sufficient

state and federal funds to accomplish this latest mission for the college.

There are several things that I feel deserve special mention here at East Central: First, the people associated with the college in all areas of operation. Without these dedicated employees, the pursuit of the mission of the college could not happen. Students, of course, are the No. 1 priority and the people who work directly with them are critical to the success of the college, but all of the support personnel make the operation of the college possible. From the overall direction of the college led by the Board of Trustees to the implementation of that vision by the administration and staff, every employee is critical to the success of the college and it is this group of dedicated employees of which I am most proud. Second, I am proud of the results that we see from our institutional effectiveness data. Our graduates do very well at the next stage of their lives. When I survey the graduates at the graduation ceremony and know what they have accomplished and what they are now prepared to do, I am extremely proud. Our mission includes for-credit instruction in academic, vocational, and technical areas, work-force training in a variety of areas, and non-credit activities from short-term personal interest activities to adult basic education, and the results in all of the areas is positive and the people who have responsibility for all of

better that a free public education was necessary to a free society. Franklin gave us the free public library, Jefferson started the University of Virginia, and Adams made sure that his children received proper instruction. The list goes on, but the main point is the importance of knowledge and skills in the development of a nation. Education is a current issue in Mississippi with the expenditure of approximately 62 percent of the General Fund budget on all levels of education. Further, the issue of pre-kindergarten is one that the state is discussing.

With the "No Child Left Behind" emphasis on raising standards, we see movement toward more rigorous expectations for progression and graduation from high school. "Blueprint Mississippi" seeks to mobilize the resources of higher education to further the interests of the state. Problem solving skills are essential to the maintenance of our society. Education is the best tool available to teach these skills so that everyone can analyze any given problem and apply their own personal beliefs and values to the information that they find on the issue.

East Central has a reputation for quality instruction. EC transfer students do very well at Mississippi's universities and students who complete our vocational and technical programs find productive employment and do very well in their chosen field.

more students receive instruction from professional educators whose sole function is instruction and the success of students. Also, East Central is a residential campus with all of the student activities associated with a college campus. Traditional college students can take part in the traditional college experience at EC.

One of my favorite stories involves a great-grandmother in her mid to late seventies who decided that she needed her high school diploma. She enrolled in our GED program and completed the exam for the General Education Diploma. Upon achieving her goal, she enrolled in our first course free program for adults and created a new goal for herself: the associate degree. She not only achieved her goal but became the second oldest inductee into the international honor society for two-year colleges — Phi Theta Kappa. When she completed her degree, she started working in our GED program as an instructor and she is still working in our program.

Interview by  
**Sid Salter**  
*Clarion-Ledger Perspective Editor*

**COMING NEXT  
SUNDAY**  
**Dr. Lester Spell**  
Commissioner of Agriculture and  
Commerce, former mayor,  
veterinarian



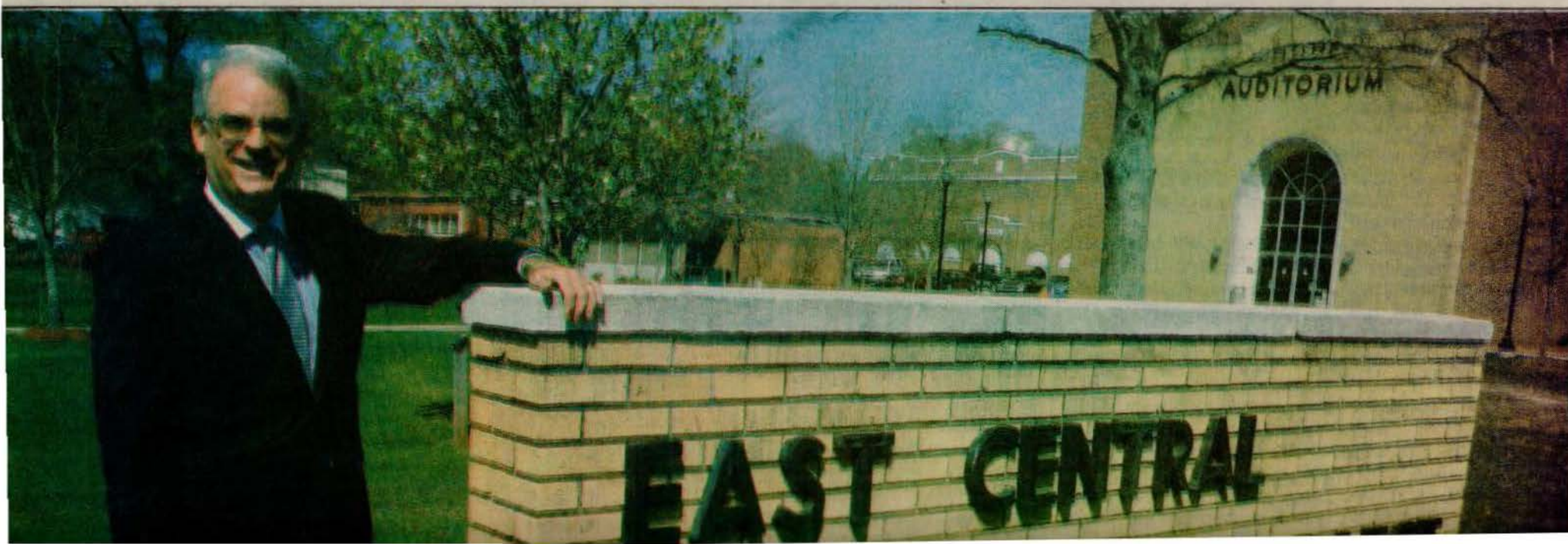
# The Newton Record

SINCE 1901

## Progress

# 2005

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Newton Record  
h 30, 2005







ROBBIE ROBERTSON/THE NEWTON RECORD

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*The Newton Record*

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## Growth

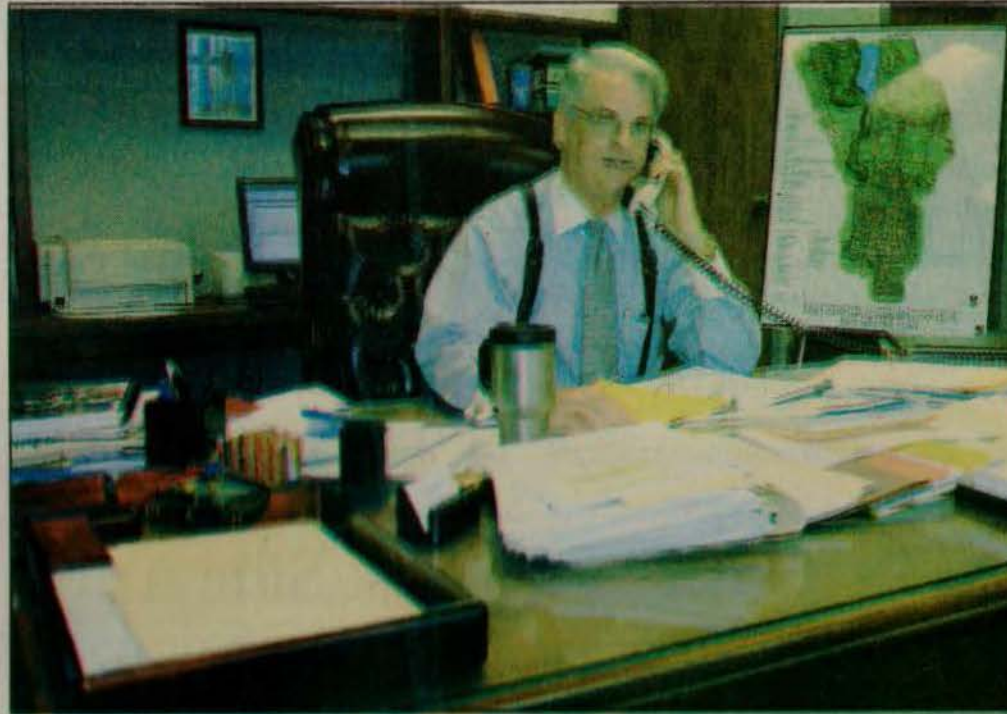
As president at East Central, Sutphin has compiled one of the longest winning streaks around. The school has posted a record enrollment for the 20th straight season. In 1985 when former president Dr. Eddie Smith started the college's recruitment program, enrollment was at 819. Enrollment this past fall was at 2,739 students. Since Sutphin took over in 2000, enrollment has grown more than 300 students.

"Growth, that's just what we do," Sutphin said with a huge grin on his face. "It's expected."

Sutphin gave a majority of the credit for the school's growth to Joe Killens, who heads the school's recruitment program.

"Joe and his staff do a great job," Sutphin said. "You have to get out to the high schools and let the students know who you are. But recently, our biggest growth has been in the non-traditional students."

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ROBBIE ROBERTSON/THE NEWTON RECORD

**East Central Community College President Phil Sutphin** sits at his desk and checks on the budget situation at the state Legislature.

leges.

"It's not just us, everybody has seen growth," Sutphin said. "I think people are seeing us as a viable alternative. I'm not saying everybody in the state has seen our kind of growth but we are part of an overall growth in the community colleges."

## Tough times

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